SEVENTH DAY—*21st October 1929.*

The House re-assembled at 8 A.M.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MESSRS. K. RAMANNA (Hole-Narsipur Taluk), BALE VENKATASAMAPPA (Hole-Narsipur Municipality) and KATTEHALLY GIDDEGOWDA (Hole-Narsipur Taluk):—

Q.—2. Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) The number of Town Municipalities in the State, the number of Minor Municipalities in the State and the Village Panchayets in the State ?

(*b*) The income of the City Municipalities of Mysore and Bangalore, Town Municipalities, Minor Municipalities and Village Panchayets in the State for each of the years 1927-28 and 1928-29 ? (Figures to be kindly furnished separately.)

(*c*) The State grant given for the above for each of the two years 1927-28 and 1928-29 ? (To be furnished separately.)

(*d*) When will the State grant be reduced to the advanced Municipalities of Bangalore and Mysore and enhanced in the case of Town and Minor Municipalities and Village Panchayets ?

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, GENERAL DEPARTMENTS.—

A.—2. (*a*) Town Municipalities 37
Minor Municipalities 67
Village Panchayets 8,895
Hamlets 205

(*b*) *Income*—

	1927-28	1928-29
Bangalore City Municipality	15,13,719	12,00,248
Mysore City Municipality	5,19,777	6,38,110
Town Municipalities ..	10,02,148	11,01,369
Minor Municipalities ..	3,55,109	3,64,381
Village Panchayets ..	not received	

Expenditure—	1927–28	1928–29
Bangalore City Municipality	14,34,906	11,74,160
Mysore City Municipality	6,21,862	6,18,284
Town Municipalities ..	9,87,206	11,71,830
Minor Municipalities ..	3,58,317	3,57,309
Village Panchayets	not received	
(*c*) *State Grant*—		
Bangalore City Municipality Improvement ..	30,000	30,000
Mysore City Improvements	1,00,000	1,00,000
Improvement of Town and Minor Municipalities	98,654*	1,03,236*
Assignment to Village Panchayets for rural reconstruction	49,331	56,646

*Note.—Charges for Town and Minor Municipalities are not booked separately in the accounts of the Comptroller.

(*d*) Grants are made with reference to the finances of the State and the works to be carried out in the localities. Every attempt is made to give larger grants to Town and Minor Municipalities and Village Panchayets.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Mr. K. Ramanna.—

When will the detailed information *re.* income and expenditure of the Village Panchayets asked for in the question be made available ?

General Secretary to Government.—

Figures have been received. They are :—

	Rs.
Income	11,08,815.
Expenditure	4,02,693.

Mr. K. Ramanna.—

When will the attempts said to have been made to give larger grants to the Town and Minor Municipalities and Village Panchayets fructify ?

Revenue Commissioner.—

You have to show some expenditure out of your own collections. The question of Government grant will then arise. The present grant itself is not completely spent.

Mr. K. Ramanna.—

What is meant by weekly labour ? Is it optional or compulsory ?

Revenue Commissioner.—

It cannot be made compulsory without legislation. The leading people should use their influence and see that people work.

Mr. K. Ramanna.—

Will not levying a fee in lieu of work cause dissatisfaction among the people ?

Revenue Commissioner.—

The right is given to the Panchayets. Government have no power to compel people to work. If you come to some understanding and do the work, there will be no trouble. But if you want to evade, I shall write to Government and see that it is made compulsory. I leave the matter to your good sense. In Canada and Australia, there is such a practice and unless such a system is introduced here also, there is no possibility of our villages improving. We have not yet taken powers to enforce this, but if necessary, we will not hesitate to do so.

Mr. K. Ramanna.—

Already house tax is being levied in the villages. If compulsory weekly labour also is introduced, then, that will cause much inconvenience to the raiyats. Are people in the towns compelled to work like this ?

Revenue Commissioner.—

That is a different matter.

Mr. K. Ramanna.—

Every house under the scheme must send one person for work. Supposing one house has 20 people and the other only 2. If each of these houses sends out only one man, will the distribution of work be fair ?

Revenue Commissioner.—

All these are matters to be decided by the Village Panchayets. If all the 20 people in the house come and work, we will be glad. The object of Government is that some responsibility should be given to the Village Panchayets and it is for the Panchayets to decide which would be best in their interests.

Mr. K. Ramanna.—

If the Government cannot give additional grants, why should compulsory labour be insisted upon ?

Revenue Commissioner.—

You have to collect your own amounts and do everything.

Mr. Siddalingappa Setty.—

Do you know that coffee planters in the Malnad have not agreed to compulsory labour ?

Revenue Commissioner.—

I do not know. When I go out on tours, nobody complains to me about these things.

Mr. Siddalingappa Setty.—

We do not know when you go out on tour.

Revenue Commissioner.—

Even though I do not give the dates, many people come and see me while on tour.

Mr. Ramakrishna Iyer.—

You say that the Village Panchayet collections have not been spent. May we know the reasons for it ?

Revenue Commissioner.—

There is no complete scheme and the people have not got sufficient knowledge of these things. In many places the amounts are not enough and have to be accumulated.

Mr. Ramakrishna Iyer.—

Does it mean that the people do not know how to make the best use of the money they have ?

Revenue Commissioner.—

Yes. Not yet.

Mr. Ramakrishna Iyer.—

Does it follow that the village improvement works are not necessary ?

Revenue Commissioner.—

No.

Mr. Ramakrishna Iyer.—

How could you say that the people have not been doing any work in the Village Panchayets ?

Revenue Commissioner.—

That is my actual experience.

Mr. Siddalingappa Setty.—

Will it be possible for Government to abolish the Village Panchayet system in coffee plantations if the planters are not agreeable to it ?

Revenue Commissioner.—

This cannot be done.

Second Member of Council.—

Malnad does not require drainage and other schemes as in the Maidan. You have to consider what kinds of works are necessary.

Mr. Siddalingappa Setty.—

It is not possible to organise the system of Village Panchayets in coffee plantations. As the coffee estates are far from each other, will the Government be pleased to abolish the system in such areas ?

Second Member of Council.—

The difficulties are known, but the Panchayets cannot be dispensed with.

Mr. B. Deva Gowda.—

Do the Government know what difficulties are caused to the people by the members of the Panchayets ?

Revenue Comimssioner.—

We do not know.

Mr. K. T. Seshaiya.—

Is it not necessary that we must first think of works in the coffee estates and then collect money ?

Second Member of Council.—

It is open to the Village Panchayets to find out the works. The villages want post offices, schools, roads, etc.

Mr. K. T. Seshaiya.—

What connection is there between the post offices and the taxes? These are too general. The Government should suggest works so as to give adequate return to the money given by the coffee planters. Let there be some equitable principle.

Second Member of Council.—

You have to find out the works which will give you adequate return.

Mr Siddalingappa Setty.—

The system of collecting funds by the Village Panchayets especially in the coffee estates was introduced two years back. Is it possible for Government to give any grants to the planters for special works?

Second Member of Council.—

It is for the Village Panchayets to suggest the works.

Mr. K. T. Seshaiya.—

If neither the Government nor the Panchayets suggest any works, will the system of Village Panchayets be abolished in the coffee estates?

Second Member of Council.—

I cannot make any promise.

Mr. Siddalingappa Setty.—

When the Dewan came to Chikmagalur, many coffee planters said that the Village Panchayets were not useful to the planters and the Dewan promised not to apply the Panchayet Regulation to the coffee estates. Would that promise be fulfilled?

Dewan.—

No. Nothing of the sort. We have duly considered the point and come to the conclusion that it could not be done.

Mr. Siddalingappa Setty.—

When the works are such as would not benefit the planters, why should not the Government abolish the Panchayets in the estates?

Second Member of Council.—

Government have already answered that question. There are many works which could be usefully carried out. The Village Panchayets should consider them.

Mr. Siddalingappa Setty.—

Do roads, post offices, schools, etc., relate to the Village Panchayet scheme?

Second Member of Council.—

Yes, because they benefit the whole area.

Mr. Siddalingappa Setty.—

Then why do the Government collect the local fund cess?

Second Member of Council.—

For purposes not coming under the purview of the Village Panchayet Scheme. All these cesses will be spent on works of public utility.

Mr. Kenchappa.—

Can you not classify the Village Panchayets according to the amounts that could be collected by them for expenditure?

Second Member of Council.—

We shall consider.

Mr. Krishnamurthi Achar.—

Will the Government be pleased to make a grant equivalent to one-half of the collections by the Village Panchayets?

Second Member of Council.—

No.

MESSRS. S. B. JOGANNA GOWDA and K. NARASIMHE GOWDA (Chennarayapatna Taluk).—

Q.—5. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) When was the Madlagere tank in the Hirisave Hobli of the Chennarayapatna Taluk breached?